

COUNTER-SPY

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INSIDE:

The AFL-CIA Goes On Safari,
The Last Flight Of The Phoenix Program,
The Politics And Proliferation Of Data Banks,
Resources For Fighting Big Brother, and more . . .

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and Norman Mailer.

Dear Friends:

When the first edition of Counter-Spy was published almost three years ago, a friend of ours was approached by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The G-men asked him to relay the message that "You'll never publish a second issue." We, of course, did publish a second issue. And a third and so on.

There has never been any doubt in our minds that Counter-Spy would continue to exist and serve the public's right to know about abuses of power. Despite regular and periodic financial crises, despite work at outside jobs to survive, despite the guarded ridicule ("the CIA will never become an issue"), despite the seeming lack of support from "friendly" individuals ("it's a job for Congress"), despite all our toil and trouble, we have continued our effort and grown as a collective and as individuals. In the last few months those seeds we have so carefully sown in the American politic have sprouted and the indications are for a rich harvest.

Candidates for office have occasionally described themselves as being "unbought and unbossed". These terms have a special significance in our case. The opportunities we've passed by for a well financed project—and there have been some strange offers—were passed because we knew that eventually these opportunities would lead us on a road coinciding with those we oppose. As a result of being "unbought and unbossed", ours has been a seat-of-the-pants struggle.

Two significant and contradictory circumstances have affected us in recent months. First, our issue has taken hold on the American consciousness. National security, intervention, spying, covert action—whatever the label—has come in from the cold to become a mass issue in this country. At the same time that our original goal of helping to create this atmosphere of awareness against repression and clandestine intervention was beginning to be attained, a near fatal series of disasters befell our effort. In retrospect, the timing of these occurrences hardly seems coincidental.

As spring approached and the thaw developed around the once invincible fortress of national security, we were fighting for our very existence. A series of financial pledges withered away simultaneously with attacks from the far-right, elements of the intelligence community and other government agencies. Slandorous and distorted information was placed in the Congressional Record by Georgia Congressman Larry McDonald, a member in good standing of the John Birch Society, and a leader of that outfit. McDonald was challenged by us to make the same allegations in a forum where Congressional immunity from lawsuits did not apply, but like other demagogues in the past, he prefers to hide in the pages of the Congressional Record. During the same week of McDonald's ravings we were red-baited to a few of our friends in the press by some of the "old boys". Rumors reached us that the CIA considers us "Cuban agents", an unbelievably absurd charge. And then our financial base was all but destroyed during the same period.

As those of you who have followed Counter-Spy closely know, our demise seemed to be only days away at one point. In a desperate measure, we appealed to long standing subscribers and friends for help. We honestly expected only a few could respond in these days of economic woes. But the response of our readers was more than ten-fold our expectations. Literally hundreds of individuals sent small donations which kept us alive during a crucial period of transformation. To those of you who lent a helping hand, we once again offer our thanks and gratitude.

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